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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2004

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Report Highlights:

Export prices continued to increase sharply in response to limited exportable supply, fueled by government intervention program.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

Indicative Prices (Week Ending Nov. 29):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	455	435	440	464	480	430	435	448	443
WR 100 B	277	275	282	276	278	280	275	278	269
PB 5%	273	272	275	275	275	288	265	275	268
WR 5%	273	270	278	271	273	275	270	273	264
WR 10%	270	265	275	268	270	273	265	269	261
WR 15%	267	262	270	266	267	270	260	266	256
WR 25%	257	258	249	263	254	256	255	256	250
WR 35%	255	255	-	261	252	254	250	255	247
A 1 SUP	224	225	-	225	215	227	225	224	222
A 1 SPEC	222	224	-	223	213	-	223	221	220
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

Market Tone

Export prices for most grades of rice continued to increase sharply, due mainly to limited exportable supply. Exporters are reportedly facing some difficulties in securing rice supply for their current outstanding shipments, as farmers and local millers are holding stocks in anticipation of higher domestic market prices resulting from the government intervention program. Trade sources reported that most exporters were more cautious in making any deals, particularly for white rice, due to a limited exportable supply. Most new orders were reportedly confined to fragrant rice, as stocks remained high. Also, continued strengthening of the Thai Baht (to around 39.6 Baht/US\$, as compared to the previous week's average of 39.8 Baht/US\$) has put upward pressure on export prices.

As of Nov. 29, 2004, the government bought 731,681 tons of paddy, of which 656,843 tons were white rice, and 74,825 tons were fragrant rice. The government planned to buy 9 million tons of MY 2004/05 main crop paddy during Nov. 1, 2004 – Feb. 28, 2004, including fragrant rice (5 million tons), white rice (3 million tons), and glutinous rice (1 million tons). As for MY 2003/04 main crop paddy, the government bought 2.4 million tons of paddy, including 2.1 million tons of white rice; 0.2 million tons of fragrant rice; and 0.05 million tons of glutinous rice.

The following are reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
OCT 10	198,009	196,953	5,955	3,797
OCT 17	214,774	207,062	6,170	3,912
OCT 24	208,260	203,847	6,378	4,035
OCT 31	235,062	214,026	6,613	4,188
NOV 7	177,334	208,857	6,790	4,318
NOV 14	173,515	198,543	6,964	4,432
NOV 21	136,609	180,630	7,101	4,572
NOV 28	159,569	161,757	7,260	4,727

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Nov. 22-28, 2004 totaled 159,569 tons, up 22,960 tons from the previous week's total and down 2,188 tons from the four-week moving average of 161,757 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – Nov. 28, 2004 totaled 7,260,121 tons, compared with 4,726,705 tons during the same period in 2003.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1- Nov. 24, 2004, amounted to 9,078,443 tons, up 39 percent from 6,535,721 tons in the previous year. Despite an anticipated slowdown in Thai rice exports for the rest of the year, total rice exports are expected to reach a record 9.7 million tons in CY 2004.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Nov. 8-12, Nov. 15-19, and Nov. 22-26, 2004 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Nov. 8-12	Nov. 15-19	Nov 22-26
weekly sales	280,144	129,963	230,110
4 week sum	910,068	791,684	833,225
4 week mov. avg.	227,517	197,921	208,306
Total weekly sales	7,848,378	7,978,341	8,208,451

End of Report.